

§ 702.6

45 CFR Ch. VII (10–1–01 Edition)

(e) The questioning of witnesses shall be conducted only by Members of the Commission, by authorized Commission staff personnel, or by counsel to the extent provided in § 702.7.

(f) In addition to persons served with a copy of the rules in this part pursuant to §§ 702.4 and 702.6, a copy of the rules in this part will be made available to all witnesses.

(g) The Chairman may punish breaches of order and decorum by censure and exclusion from the proceedings.

§ 702.6 Executive session.

(a) If the Commission determines that evidence or testimony at any hearing may tend to defame, degrade, or incriminate any person, it shall receive such evidence or testimony or summary of such evidence or testimony in executive session.

(b) The Commission shall afford any persons defamed, degraded, or incriminated by such evidence or testimony an opportunity to appear and be heard in executive session, with a reasonable number of additional witnesses requested by them, before deciding to use such evidence or testimony.

(1) Such person shall be served with notice in writing of the date, time, and place made available for the appearance of witnesses at executive session, at least 10 days prior to such date, or where service is by mail at least 14 days prior to such date. This notice shall be accompanied by a copy of the rules in this part and by a brief summary of the information which the Commission has determined may tend to defame, degrade, or incriminate such person.

(2) The notice, summary, and rules in this part shall be served personally by depositing the same in the United States mail as certified mail, or by leaving a copy thereof at the last known residence or business address of such person.

(3) The date of service, for purposes of this section, shall be the day when the material is deposited in the United States mail or is delivered in person, as the case may be. When service is made by certified mail, the return post office receipt shall be proof of service; in all other cases, the acknowledgment of the

party served, or the verified return of the one making service shall be proof of the same.

(c) If a person receiving notice under this section notifies the Commission within five days of service of such notice, or where service is by mail within eight days of service of such notice, that the time scheduled therein constitutes a hardship, the Commission may, in its discretion, set a new time for such person's appearance at the executive session.

(d) In the event such persons fail to appear at executive session at the time and place made available under paragraph (b) or (c) of this section, they shall not be entitled to another opportunity to appear at executive session, except as provided in § 702.11.

(e) If such persons intend to submit sworn statements of themselves or others, or if they intend that witnesses appear in their behalf at executive session, they shall, no later than 48 hours prior to the time set under paragraph (b) or (c) of this section, submit to the Commission, all such statements and a list of all witnesses. The Commission will inform such persons whether the number of witnesses requested is reasonable within the meaning of paragraph (b) of this section. In addition, the Commission will receive and dispose of requests from such persons to subpoena other witnesses. Requests for subpoenas shall be made sufficiently in advance of the scheduled executive session as to afford persons subpoenaed reasonable notice of their obligation to appear at that session. Subpoenas returnable at executive session shall be governed by the provisions of § 702.4.

(f) Persons for whom an executive session has been scheduled, and persons compelled to appear at such session, may be represented by counsel at such session to the extent provided by § 702.7.

(g) Attendance at executive session shall be limited to Members of the Commission, authorized Commission staff personnel, witnesses and their counsel at the time scheduled for their appearance, and such other persons whose presence is requested or consented to by the Commission.

(h) In the event the Commission determines to release or to use evidence

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or testimony which it has determined may tend to defame, degrade, or incriminate any persons, in such a manner as to reveal publicly their identity, such evidence or testimony, prior to such public release or use, will be presented at a public session, and the Commission will afford them an opportunity to appear as voluntary witnesses or to file a sworn statement in their own behalf and to submit brief and pertinent sworn statements of others.

[32 FR 4063, Mar. 15, 1967. Designated at 42 FR 14108, Mar. 15, 1977, and amended at 44 FR 75150, Dec. 19, 1979]

§ 702.7 Counsel.

(a) Persons compelled to appear in person before the Commission and any witness appearing at a public session of the Commission will be accorded the right to be accompanied and advised by counsel, who will have the right to subject their clients to reasonable examination, and to make objections on the record and to argue briefly the basis for such objections.

(b) For the purpose of this section, *counsel* shall mean an attorney at law admitted to practice before the Supreme Court of the United States, or the highest court of any State or Territory of the United States.

(c) Failure of any persons to obtain counsel shall not excuse them from attendance in response to a subpoena, nor shall any persons be excused in the event their counsel is excluded from the proceeding pursuant to § 702.5(g). In the latter case, however, such persons shall be afforded a reasonable time to obtain other counsel, said time to be determined by the Commission.

[32 FR 4063, Mar. 15, 1967. Designated at 42 FR 14108, Mar. 15, 1977, and amended at 44 FR 75150, Dec. 19, 1979]

§ 702.8 Evidence at Commission proceedings.

(a) The rules of evidence prevailing in courts of law or equity shall not control proceedings of the Commission.

(b) Where a witness testifying at a public session of a hearing or a session for return of subpoenaed documents offers the sworn statements of other persons, such statements, in the discretion of the Commission, may be in-

cluded in the record, provided they are received by the Commission within 24 hours in advance of the witness' appearance.

(c) The prepared statement of a witness testifying at a public session of a hearing, in the discretion of the Commission, may be placed into the record, provided that such statement is received by the Commission 24 hours in advance of the witness' appearance.

(d) In the discretion of the Commission, evidence may be included in the record after the close of a public session of a hearing, provided the Commission determines that such evidence does not tend to defame, degrade, or incriminate any person.

(e) The Commission will determine the pertinency of testimony and evidence adduced at its proceedings, and may refuse to include in the record of a proceeding or may strike from the record any evidence it considers to be cumulative, immaterial, or not pertinent.

[32 FR 4063, Mar. 15, 1967. Designated at 42 FR 14108, Mar. 15, 1977, and amended at 44 FR 75150, Dec. 19, 1979; 44 FR 76798, Dec. 28, 1979]

§ 702.9 Cross-examination at public session.

If the Commission determines that oral testimony of a witness at a public session tends to defame, degrade, or incriminate any person, such person, or through counsel, shall be permitted to submit questions to the Commission in writing, which, in the discretion of the Commission, may be put to such witness by the Chairman or by authorized Commission staff personnel.

[44 FR 75150, Dec. 19, 1979]

§ 702.10 Voluntary witnesses at public session of a hearing.

A person who has not been subpoenaed and who has not been afforded an opportunity to appear pursuant to § 702.6 may be permitted, in the discretion of the Commission, to make an oral or written statement at a public session of a hearing. Such person may be questioned to the same extent and in the same manner as other witnesses before the Commission.